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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS, SECOND PHASE: LAND, DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present document reports on progress in the implementation of the aims set out in chapter 12 of Agenda 21 1/ (Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought) since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992, and presents a set of recommendations for action. The report was prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as Task Manager for chapter 12 of Agenda 21, in consultation with the United Nations Secretariat, in accordance with arrangements agreed to by the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development at its fourth session. It is the result of consultations and information exchanges between designated focal points in 19 United Nations agencies, government officials and a number of other institutions and individuals.

2. In 1992, 15 years after the United Nations Conference on Desertification and the resulting Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the Governments at Rio de Janeiro adopted an internationally negotiated definition of desertification and a programme to address it: chapter 12 of Agenda 21.

3. In the interim, there had been much talk and some action, but little that could be directly attributed to the Plan of Action. Of the numerous projects undertaken in the drylands, many helped control land degradation, some made it worse, despite the best intentions, and many were not sustained beyond the initial donor input stage.

4. There are some 1 billion people living in the rural areas of the world's drylands. This is almost one fifth of the population of the globe. 2/

5. The drylands, defined as the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions (excluding hyper-arid deserts), cover one third of the land area of the world. Drylands are distributed in all continents: 25 per cent in Africa, 32 per cent in Asia, 14 per cent in North America, 13 per cent in Australia, 10 per cent in South America and 6 per cent in Europe.

6. The best available estimates by the leading national experts world wide indicate that 70 per cent of the drylands are degraded to some extent mainly through degradation of the natural vegetation, and that the rate of increase was 3.4 per cent between 1984 and 1991. Each year some 3.5-4.0 million hectares of agriculturally used croplands are said to be lost as a result of the various processes of land degradation around the world. Millions of people are at risk of having to abandon their lands and migrate.

7. The economic loss caused by desertification worldwide, in terms of average income foregone, was estimated in 1991 to be more than US$ 42 billion per year, most of it in Asia (US$ 20.9 billion per year) and Africa (US$ 9.3 billion per year). These figures are all the more alarming when it is realized that the affected countries, particularly in Africa, rank among the poorest and least developed in the world.

8. Many authorities consider that the period from the late 1960s to the late 1980s was one of constant drought in sub-Saharan Africa. Satellite imagery

showed reduced ephemeral green biomass production, creating visions of "expanding deserts" and "marching sand dunes". Closer scientific inspection revealed that those changes reflected water shortage and not necessarily permanent soil fertility loss or land degradation.

9. There has been considerable argument about the nature of and solution for desertification. Scientific and technical information was often inconsistent owing to the different, and changing definitional bases. UNEP tried to redefine desertification as land degradation in the drylands resulting principally from human actions (which could change), an attempt to avoid the contentious word "desertification" altogether. "Land degradation" and "loss of soil productivity" are not, however, attention-grabbing titles. Further, some interpreted this as an allocation of blame rather than an indicator of opportunity for effective remedial action.

10. Many countries, particularly in Africa, planned to address the problem through national plans of action, but overall desertification control was given low priority at both the national and international levels; countries lacked the necessary financial resources and were unable to mobilize external resources. To make matters worse, the people most challenged to sustain themselves on their land against all odds were among the poorest, most marginalized and least visible politically, geographically and economically. Desertification control was not integrated into socio-economic development and affected populations were not involved in planning and implementation of the programmes. The proposed solutions were thought to be technical, whereas they are now recognized as largely socio-economic.

11. Although these issues were included in the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, chapter 12 of Agenda 21, on combating desertification and drought, brought them more into focus and changed the emphasis from technical to political. Of major importance was the recommendation for significant political effort to negotiate an international convention on desertification. In an impressive effort, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, together with four regional implementation annexes and a draft resolution on urgent action for Africa, was completed within the time specified, on 17 June 1994. The Convention places responsibility for implementation squarely on Governments, with United Nations organizations playing a supporting role - a significant change from the Plan of Action.

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW

12. The realization of the political and social reality of desertification and a pragmatic response to the economic prospects facing most developing countries at the Rio Conference led to the development of a common understanding on the importance of the "bottom-up approach". This necessity for community involvement and commitment pervaded the negotiations of the Convention and is clearly reflected in the text.

13. The focus of attention of most concerned Governments, agencies and non-governmental organizations throughout the post-UNCED period has been the intergovernmental negotiations for the Convention.

14. From the outset it was considered appropriate for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to negotiate an instrument focusing particular attention on the needs of Africa, where the extent and social impact of desertification is greatest.

15. In subsequent debates, however, it became clear that desertification was of concern not only to Africa, but that annexes for Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and, finally, the Northern Mediterranean should also be negotiated. All four regional annexes were completed with the Convention.

16. In addition to the main negotiation sessions, there were many ancillary meetings, especially in Africa. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) played a notable role and the draft text prepared by the OAU Expert Group in May 1993 provided a substantial base for the subsequent compilation text for the negotiations. Regional drafting meetings were held to prepare the annexes. The International Panel of Experts on Desertification helped advise the ad hoc secretariat and delegations and produced a number of reports, for example, on the linkages between desertification and biodiversity. Other important inputs included a report prepared under the auspices of UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on the interactions of desertification and climate and the WMO revised publication on climate variations, drought and desertification.

17. The ad hoc secretariat of the Negotiating Committee played a major role in the success of the negotiations by preparing key documents, such as a compilation of government views and later a negotiating text. It also used computer technology to track changes in the text rapidly, as negotiating sessions progressed.

18. As at UNCED non-governmental organizations, with support particularly from the secretariat, UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), were actively involved in the process. They made effective interventions and contributed significantly to the final negotiated text.

19. There were numerous additional activities related to the Negotiating Committee. The ad hoc secretariat, with assistance from other organizations, supported the case-studies on desertification that were carried out in various countries and subregions to determine the status of desertification and to help in preparing action programmes. The results were varied, but the secretariat was able to prepare a paper drawing lessons from these case-studies for the preparation of action programmes elsewhere.

20. The involvement of United Nations organizations in the Negotiating Committee process varied. Major roles were played by UNEP and UNDP/UNSO in providing substantial support to the ad hoc secretariat, the case-studies,

workshops and meetings. Additional support came notably from WMO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). These and other organizations and bodies contributed to the negotiating sessions and provided substantive contributions and technical support to the negotiations.

21. Despite funding and other restrictions, the ad hoc secretariat played a major role in the success of the Negotiating Committee process. The interim secretariat will need continued substantial support to carry out the functions, some of them new, required by the Convention and the Committee, including facilitating the implementation of urgent action for Africa.

22. Much may continue to depend on other organizations and agencies. They are now also reviewing their responses to the Convention and the call for urgent action for Africa. This is likely to make many demands on their available resources.

23. Although international focus has been on the negotiations, at the field and project levels work has continued, with the support of many donors and agencies, covering a wide range of activities including the application of such new approaches as the land management programmes in the Sahel.

24. Eighty-five countries and the European Union signed the Convention at a ceremony in Paris on 14-15 October 1994. After the signing, Governments announced their plans for implementing the Convention. Many affected countries pledged to step up national programmes. Some announced the setting up of national action committees to coordinate efforts with those of non-governmental organizations, local communities, international organizations and donors. A number of countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) announced aid packages, mostly to be reallocated from existing development funds, and earmarked for assistance to Africa (see below). The Convention is open for signature at United Nations Headquarters until 13 October 1995; as at 15 December 1994, a total of 94 countries had signed, in addition to the European Union.

II. REVIEW OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED, MAIN POLICY ISSUES, AND EXPERIENCES IN THE MAIN PROGRAMME AREAS OF CHAPTER 12 OF AGENDA 21

A. Country experiences

25. No official national reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development were received before the original deadline for completion and submission of the present report. The following section is based on information available to UNEP, updated using official reports received in December. It has also been reviewed by delegations at the meeting of the Negotiating Committee in January 1995 and takes into account their comments and proposed additions.

1. Developing countries

26. Despite the focus on the negotiation process, there has been increased activity at the country level. This trend is expected to continue. Over the next three years, countries are projected to borrow nearly US$ 2 billion from the World Bank for projects with components for natural resource management in the drylands, of which almost US$ 700 million is for projects designed mainly to help arrest degradation of renewable natural resources. Most notable is the annual average increase of borrowing for such projects, and the cross-boundary nature of some of the projects concerned, for example, the Aral Sea Programme and the Middle East Desertification Initiative.

(a) Latin America and the Caribbean

27. Latin American and Caribbean countries have been active throughout the negotiating process of the Convention, an attitude that reflects the priority given by the region to combating drought and desertification. The elaboration of the implementation annex for the region was preceded by a series of consultations and coordination meetings culminating with the regional meeting held at Santiago in May 1994. These coordination efforts profited from the experience that many Latin American and Caribbean countries have had in combating desertification and drought prior to the Rio Conference, and from the active participation of non-governmental organizations.

28. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, most countries have prepared, revised or are in the process of finalizing national plans of action. Common features of these plans are: (a) increased participation of the local communities and non-governmental organizations; (b) the need to eradicate poverty deriving from desertification and drought; (c) the need to mobilize financial resources and technology from abroad in order to meet the objectives of the plans; (d) the need to adopt a global approach to the problem, not only in geographical terms, embracing different regions of the country and different countries of the region, but also in relation to the links between favourable terms of trade for Latin American and Caribbean products, such as the elimination of trade restrictions and foreign debt, on the one hand, and the possibility of adopting sustainable patterns of land use, on the other.

29. Small island States face particular challenges. The Government of the Bahamas has taken concrete steps consistent with Agenda 21 to encourage sustainable farming, forestry, tourism and urban development; all within the constraints of its fragile ecosystem. The thin Bahamian soils are at risk of soil erosion and the freshwater table overlies saltwater, with the consequent danger of saltwater intrusion and salinization. The Government is aware of the fragility of the ecosystem and is enacting regulatory and monitoring programmes to protect land from the threat of desertification and salinization.

(b) Asia

30. China is paying increasing attention to environmental concerns in view of its rapid economic development. Along with salinization, wind and water erosion have contributed to the desertification of large tracts of land and the

siltation of important river systems. China, however, remains committed to combating desertification and has taken domestic actions immediately after signing the Convention on 14 October 1994. Such actions include:

(a) The drafting of the China National Action Programme to Combat Desertification and its inclusion in China's Agenda 21, the national strategy for sustainable development;

(b) The establishment of the China National Committee to Implement the Convention to Combat Desertification, an institution to coordinate desertification control efforts;

(c) The enhancement of existing institutions related to combating desertification, such as the National Monitoring Centre, the Training Centre and the Research and Development Centre;

(d) Specific projects in the field of afforestation, land reclamation and soil and water conservation;

(e) The plan to draft the Law on Combating Desertification.

Such actions demonstrate China's long-term commitment to preventing and controlling desertification.

31. In India, over the years, a variety of programmes have been initiated to deal with problems of desertification, in particular under the Drought-prone Area Programme and the Desert Development Programme, started by the Government of India in cooperation with State Governments and village-level organizations. Several research initiatives have been taken by national and state-level organizations. Important national-level organizations include:

(a) Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur (and its environmental information centre in particular);

(b) Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur;

(c) Grass and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi;

(d) National Afforestation and Eco-Development Branch, New Delhi.

32. The Rajasthan Canal Project is a concrete effort to convert desert lands into a well-irrigated tract. The project provides irrigation facilities to more than 2.5 million hectares of the Indian desert, of which 1.2 million hectares are irrigable. The total length of the main canal is 649 kilometres and runs in the districts of Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur.

33. The national environmental awareness campaign with the help of grass-roots level non-governmental organizations, and the Centre for Environment Education at Ahmadabad, with the help of schools and new education materials, play an important role in creating interest in the application of science and technology in combating desertification in India.

34. Pakistan has completed a national action plan since the Rio Conference and is now evaluating its compatibility with the requirements of the Convention for national action programmes.

35. The Islamic Republic of Iran has allocated significant resources to desertification control activities in more than 4 million hectares in the past few years, and plans to address another 10 million hectares in the next five years. It has established a National Committee to Combat Desertification to formulate a national programme of action. The country has opened a local office of the Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific. With support from IFAD and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Government has also rehabilitated 140,000 hectares of range lands degraded by refugees.

36. Other States have played important roles in the negotiations and have initiated several related activities. The newly independent States of central Asia contributed substantially to the preparation of the regional annex for Asia.

(c) Africa

37. Both regional and subregional organizations have been very active, especially in the Convention negotiating process and in developing the African strategy for the implementation and follow-up of the Convention. OAU, the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), as well as the African Deserts and Arid Lands Committee of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, have held post-Convention expert meetings and/or high-level political consultations. Action programmes for the follow-up to the Convention and for the implementation of urgent action for Africa have been prepared.

38. New emphasis has been given to some issues. For example, at the CILSS conference on land tenure and decentralization, in May 1994, it was recommended that land-use legislation be based on equity and social justice; that marginalized social categories (women, peasants, pastoralists) have access to natural resources, and be increasingly involved in decision-making and resource development; that public, constitutional and juridical recognition and legitimacy of rural institutions be endorsed and decentralized structures created to establish local community funds; and that the role of the State be changed from that of an authority to that of a counsellor.

39. A significant new factor in Africa could prove to be the re-emergence of South Africa, especially in the SADC subregion. Already, there are signs throughout Africa of intensified action to involve local peoples in the dryland development dialogue with Governments and non-governmental organizations. For example, in 1993/94, the Government of Botswana, in the context of the SADC Kalahari-Namib Plan, invited non-governmental organizations and local land-users in arid/semi-arid rangeland areas to village-level seminars to discuss the desertification problem and locally possible remedies. Further meetings are planned for 1995 to consolidate the conclusions of this ongoing process.

40. In Nami' ia, the Desert Research Foundation organized a workshop for the same purpose. In addition to workshops, the Government of Namibia has established a new Ministry of Environment and Tourism and a Directorate of Environmental Affairs to provide strong leadership in environmental planning in the country. Since UNCED, Namibia has enacted legislation and programmes to promote soil conservation and sustainable development practices to arrest the processes of desertification. Namibia is proud of its unique desert environment and is actively protecting the Namib Desert ecosystem.

41. The United Republic of Tanzania, which in the late 1970s and early 1980s implemented a successful technical project to stop overgrazing-induced land degradation by destocking some 120,000 head of cattle in the Kondoa district of central Tanzania, is now working on the socio-economic aspect, seeking ways to manage growing population pressure and reintroduce livestock into the farming systems of the under-utilized, formerly eroded area.

42. Since UNCED, Burkina Faso has given greater priority to the environment and played an active role in the negotiation process for the Convention. The Government has established inter-ministerial structures for environmental management, including for the implementation of Agenda 21. To contribute to the implementation of the Environmental Action Plan, a unit to collect and process environmental information has been set up.

43. The strategic options and other programmes and projects of Chad's Plan of Action to Combat Desertification constitute a concrete response to the provisions of the Convention and particularly to the resolution on urgent action for Africa. Chad participated actively in the negotiation of the Convention and will begin the process of ratification with minimum delay.

44. In 1993, the Sudan prepared a five-year programme of action as well as a national case-study, which was submitted to the Negotiating Committee at its fourth session. Recent work has helped focus efforts on the key areas. Government figures indicate that 414,000 square kilometres are severely or very severely affected by desertification; altogether, 1.26 million square kilometres are affected to some degree. The Sudan was an active participant in the negotiations, has signed the Convention and is in the process of ratification.

45. The Niger is in the process of developing a national framework programme for environment and sustainable development, involving all partners in an approach that is integrated, decentralized and broadly participative.

2. Developed countries

46. The developed countries have continued to support programmes for desertification control and drought mitigation in partnership with affected developing countries. In recent years, the realization of the underlying systemic constraints to long-term sustainable dryland development has permeated donor policies and resulted in an increased focus on incentives for their improvement. Since the Rio Conference, there has been greater emphasis on involving non-governmental organizations and local communities and stakeholders

in the planning and execution of development efforts, in order to create a more enabling environment for sustainable resource management.

47. In the developed countries themselves, programmes and projects related to desertification and land degradation have received more attention than previously.

(a) Europe

48. A component of the European programme (42 billion ECU) for mitigating land degradation in southern Europe, the Mediterranean Desertification and Land Use (MEDALUS) project is investigating desertification processes in the Mediterranean area, modelling landscape systems and formulating policy proposals. The Assessment and Monitoring of Desertification in the Mediterranean Region (ASMODE) project, undertaken jointly by Dutch and Spanish institutions, aims at demonstrating the utility of remote sensing for monitoring desertification, preparing a desertification index and developing a geographic information system. Maps will then be produced on the status and risk of desertification, to make it possible to simulate the impacts of European agricultural policy on land degradation.

49. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission has numerous activities connected with environmental monitoring using low resolution satellite imagery, for example of tropical vegetation. Synoptic data from the MERCATOR (Monitoring Ecosystems with Remote Sensing and Cartography of African Tropical Regions) project is used by early warning systems and national services in charge of natural resource management.

50. French cooperation with regard to desertification control is concentrated in the countries of the Sahel, giving particular attention to community-based interventions and assistance to reduce the impacts of desertification on the poorest people and nomads. In addition, France undertakes monitoring and assessment activities related to desertification. The climatic trend surveys undertaken by the Office de la recherche scientifique et technique outre-mer (ORSTOM) contribute to a better understanding of El Niño dynamics, ocean circulation and long-term climatic changes, and of paleo-climatic and paleo-vegetation evolution. The water management programmes involve the study and modelling of water exchange processes between soil vegetation and the atmosphere in the dry tropics. A new programme is being launched on renewable energy sources in Africa, with a view to reducing the impact of household energy consumption on forest resources.

51. Belgium also supports activities to study solar and other renewable sources of energy as part of its efforts to transfer technology and assist in the sustainable development of the specific dryland countries and regions in which its overseas aid is concentrated. Belgium also contributes to the Special Programme for Africa, which aims to combat drought and desertification south of the Sahara.

52. As a contribution to the Negotiating Committee process, a Spanish symposium on Desertification and Migrations, held in Almeria in February 1994, highlighted *increasing rates of emigration from the drylands and formulated the principle of*

the "right to remain" of people not wishing to abandon family lands. Spain is also creating an Institute of Desertification in Valencia to carry out scientific research.

53. The Scandinavian countries have a long-established interest in the drylands. They have played a prominent role since UNCED - the Chairman of the Negotiating Committee being provided by Sweden - and they have given considerable support to the negotiation process for the Convention. Denmark has established a new fund for international environment and emergency assistance, targeting an additional one half per cent of gross national product (GNP) to this fund by the year 2004.

(b) United States of America

54. In the United States of America, the diversity of management and ownership structures has led to a variety of methods and systems for assessing environmental conditions across all lands that are often difficult to compare. To overcome the lack of comprehensive data on drylands, the Environmental Protection Agency has begun an Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme, independent of data produced by land management agencies. Politically, the outcome of and compliance with the 1985 Farm Bill is being studied in preparation for the 1995 Farm Bill. The 1985 Bill requires growers to have conservation systems in place by 1995 to be eligible for government support or subsidies, and to take steps against erosion of the most fragile soil. The Department of Agriculture had determined that 145 million of the 400 million crop land acres were highly erodible. By the end of 1993, 1.7 million conservation plans had been developed covering 143 million acres. These conservation practices should save an estimated 1 billion tons of soil each year.

55. In total, some 40 million acres are affected by salinization. Recent droughts and environmental pollution have intensified debate over water-use rights and management practices in irrigated agriculture in the arid south-west of the country. Plans have been made to improve water quality in the Colorado River, through desalinization before the River enters Mexico.

(c) Canada

56. Canada has extensive drylands and has been grappling with land degradation on the prairies since the 1930s.

57. Programming related to desertification and drought by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has been geared to respond to chapter 12 of Agenda 21 and to support the Negotiating Committee process both financially (more than US$ 2 million) and technically (legal expertise). CIDA convened and provided support to an OECD workshop on methodologies to measure funding directed to desertification control programmes, and will support OECD cooperation with the Negotiating Committee in the interim period before the Conference of Parties.

58. In consultation with stakeholders, CIDA supports specific desertification control and drought preparedness programmes, for example, on sand dune

stabilization and shoreline protection in Senegal, and integrated socio-economic and rural development programmes to promote alternative livelihoods, popular participation and a strengthening of the knowledge base in Burkina Faso and Mali. CIDA also supports capacity-building and the institutional development of subregional and national organizations.

59. IDRC support has been directed at strengthening the Negotiating Committee process in African countries, reviewing studies, analysing the lessons learned from previous desertification control projects and identifying knowledge gaps. IDRC also supports various activities related to popular participation and alternative livelihoods through focal African institutes which empower rural community-based organizations. It promotes information networks on drought monitoring, information exchange on viable methods of improving livelihoods, research on combining indigenous knowledge and traditional coping strategies with modern technologies and the formulation of national action programmes to combat desertification.

(d) Australia

60. To reinforce action already being taken, Australia is preparing a national strategy for rangeland management to complement the decade of the Landcare plan. The integrated Landcare programme for sustainable dryland development and management has been well received by the various stakeholders and externally. The approach and strategy are being transferred to other countries, for example, through FAO to countries in Asia and Latin America. In a sharing of its expertise in dryland matters, Australia is investigating with UNDP and UNEP the provision of Australian advisers to assist with the planning of national environmental strategies to combat desertification in countries of Southern and Eastern Africa. It is also working with WMO on a plan to establish a network linking the Nairobi and Harare drought monitoring centres with the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) in Niamey.

(e) Japan

61. Japan has implemented a variety of projects to combat desertification and mitigate drought as a part of its environment-related official development assistance (ODA). These projects include afforestation cooperation projects in Senegal, the Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania; a forest resource management project in Chile to prevent soil erosion and promote afforestation; various research projects and a regional agricultural development project in the Niger incorporating verification of the effective agricultural use of surface and groundwater. In cooperation with the Government of Indonesia, the United Nations, UNDP and the Global Coalition for Africa, Japan also convened the Asia-Africa Forum for Asia-Africa Cooperation, in Bandung in December 1994. This produced the Bandung Framework for Asia-Africa Cooperation, an agreement to promote an exchange of views and experiences relating to sustainable development, which is also expected to cover the struggle against desertification.

3. Countries in transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy

62. The Russian Federation is in the process of preparing its national report on desertification and drought. Several international conferences and workshops have been held on the problems of environment protection and the conservation of nature. Special attention was given to the symposium on desertification problems in the affected region of Ubsu-Nur. An international conference and educational courses on desertification for experts of the Commonwealth of Independent States were organized in 1994 with the support of UNEP.

63. Many newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, both in Asia and in Europe, have extensive areas of dryland subject to desertification. Despite their other problems, many new States have undertaken measures to combat desertification at both national and subregional levels. A major subregional programme is that on the Aral Sea, which aims to stabilize the environment and improve the management of the international waters of the Aral Sea Basin, rehabilitate the disaster zone around the Sea and build the capacity of regional institutions for planning and implementing the programme. The Kalmyck Republic, within the Russian Federation, has initiated action to develop a programme to stem desertification caused mainly by overgrazing. The Desert Research Centre at Ashkhabad in Turkmenistan continues to play an active role in regional and international cooperation by working on the development of desertification mapping and assessment methodologies, training and the provision of experts for other countries in Asia. It also participated actively in the formulation of the Asian annex to the Convention

B. Summary of the experiences of major groups and non-governmental organizations

1. Major groups

(a) Subregional organizations

64. Subregional organizations were fully involved and made a substantial contribution to the negotiation process for the Convention and have since adopted timetables for the formulation and implementation of subregional action programmes. CILSS and the Club du Sahel met in December 1993 to lay down the guidelines for a regional strategy to implement the Convention, bearing in mind the lessons learned from the implementation of the Nouakchott strategy of 1985.

65. In October 1994, SADC discussed its subregional environment strategy for implementing Agenda 21, which includes desertification. It was endorsed for approval by its ministerial council in early 1995.

66. During September and October 1994, CILSS, IGADD and UMA held meetings to discuss the implementation of the Convention in their respective subregions. Action programmes have been formulated based on long-term strategies, building on existing successful plans and subregional programmes and focusing on aspects of the desertification issue that are best dealt with at the subregional level, including the sustainable development of transboundary natural resources.

Increasing cooperation between subregional organizations and with non-governmental organizations and others was a recurrent theme of the meetings.

(b) Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

67. In response to chapter 12 of Agenda 21, various centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) working in Africa, coordinated by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), have developed a collaborative project to address the problems of desert margin areas of sub-Saharan Africa. The initiative aims to design sustainable natural resource management options to combat land degradation using indigenous and modern scientific principles integrated into improved production technologies. Initial design is under way and national scientists in sub-Saharan countries have identified the major causes of degradation in their countries. The project will involve CGIAR centres, the national agricultural research systems in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Namibia and the Niger, subregional organizations and non-governmental organizations.

(c) Regional development banks

68. The African Development Bank (AfDB) played a significant part in the negotiation process for the Convention in support of the African countries, and also in the establishment of the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA). Environmental programmes have been restructured in line with the provisions of the Convention.

69. At the Paris ceremony, AfDB committed itself to play an active part in implementing the Convention, in line with the important role assigned to it under the provisions of the Convention, particularly in terms of integrated activities in key areas such as improving national economic environments, the sustainable use of natural resources, efficient energy use, capacity-building and sensitization. Studies of approaches to implement the Convention are being supported and the possibilities of assisting African countries to develop national and subregional action programmes to combat desertification are being explored.

70. The Islamic Development Bank will work with its member States and other intergovernmental organizations to finance specific projects under the Convention.

2. Non-governmental organizations

71. A major result of the UNCED process was the increased influence of non-governmental organizations, which came about largely through cooperative organization. For instance, the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI) is a network of more than 860 non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations world wide. Following on the role given to non-governmental organizations in the Convention, the levels of cooperation and joint activities between non-governmental organizations, United Nations organizations and others,

and between international non-governmental organizations and those in countries affected by desertification have grown significantly.

72. In addition to their active participation in the Negotiating Committee process and contributing to the Convention, non-governmental organizations have increased support to dryland development, while continuing to implement grass-roots programmes and further develop approaches for the more sustainable and participatory management of dryland resources. Increased emphasis is being given to empowering women and other marginalized groups, including their involvement in planning and decision-making processes.

73. More than 100 non-governmental organizations participated actively in the Negotiating Committee process and organized strategy meetings prior to the Committee sessions. As a group, they made significant contributions to inter-sessional workshops on the social aspects of desertification and international trade and desertification and to the policy dialogue on the financial means of implementing the Convention, which eventually led to the proposal for national desertification trust funds.

74. As a follow-up to the Convention, in November 1994, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations formed the International NGO Network on Desertification (RIOD) to share the information and experience of local communities. ELCI is the secretariat and focal points are designated in all affected continents. RIOD is preparing a Community Guide to the Desertification Convention, which explains the role of non-governmental organizations and community groups in implementing the Convention. ELCI is continuing to lobby and follow up on national desertification trust funds and to develop partnerships between Governments, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations.

75. Since UNCED, individual non-governmental organizations have shifted programme emphasis from technical solutions to focus on people and sustainable development. Programmes seek to empower local communities, especially women, to move from passive participation in resource decisions to active control over their natural resources. Pastoral development approaches are being re-examined, based on a coherent understanding of the dynamics of dry grazing lands. Attention is being given to the stability and security of rural, marginalized households and their strategies for achieving food security. Information is another focus, particularly at the community level; for example, forums have been established for grass-roots information exchange and programme development on women, environment and sustainable development, and integrated information has been documented on adaptive strategies for sustainable development, for non-governmental organizations, local communities and policy makers.

III. MATTERS RELATED TO FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

A. Finance

76. Much of the focus on financing and technology transfer for desertification control has centred on the Convention negotiation, which was expected to propose appropriate mechanisms for implementation. Existing mechanisms have continued

in use to initiate action and mobilize external support for dryland development in developing countries.

77. United Nations bodies have reviewed their financing programmes in relation to Agenda 21 and strengthened interventions to support the development of national capacities. These include Capacity 21 for UNDP, the UNEP/UNDP joint venture to support UNSO for the Sudano-Sahelian region, the FAO Technical and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC/ECDC) programme, the WMO/World Bank World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS) programme, the IFAD special programme for sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought and desertification (SPA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)/UNEP/UNDP Desertification Control in the Asia Pacific Region (DESCONAP) initiative.

78. These programmes promote inter-country cooperation and emphasize the sharing of technical knowledge, skills and experiences, and the transfer of technology between countries, institutions and other organizations, through such means as networking and expert groups. Resource mobilization remains a central function.

79. One attempt to further this process was the proposal to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council that desertification be made the fifth focus eligible for GEF funding. Although not yet accepted, the Council agreed that desertification/land degradation would be eligible for financing in so far as it is related to the four existing criteria. In November 1994, the GEF Council considered a preliminary issues paper on land degradation strategies. It asked the GEF secretariat to prepare an operational strategy for incorporating land degradation projects into the four focal areas, for consideration at the January 1995 meeting of the Council. The request for a separate operational strategy for land degradation was a major decision, giving desertification more prominence in GEF.

80. The Conference of Parties is requested by the Convention to promote the availability of financial mechanisms and encourage them to maximize funding availability for affected developing countries. Provision of support for national, subregional and regional activities is also encouraged through various mechanisms of the United Nations system and multilateral financial institutions. The Convention includes the establishment of a global mechanism for promoting action leading to the mobilization of substantial financial resources, as well as the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or concessional or other terms.

81. The regional implementation annexes to the Convention further emphasize developing countries' need for assistance in providing and facilitating access to financial and other resources and in promoting and facilitating the financing of the transfer of and adaptation and access to appropriate technologies and know-how. It is suggested that macroeconomic frameworks conducive to mobilizing financial resources be developed and that the allocation of significant resources through partnership agreements and bilateral or multilateral arrangements be continued and enhanced.

82. An early response to these responsibilities was the pledging of resources at the signing ceremony of the Convention in Paris in October. Many developed countries and the European Union announced that substantial funds would be available for action in Africa during the interim period and/or described specific programme initiatives and plans. The European Union stated that since 1992 a further US$ 434 million has been promised under the Lomé trade-and-aid agreements to fight desertification.

83. Among the developed countries, Australia announced a special contribution of $A 250,000 over three years, together with programme initiatives in support of urgent action for Africa. Denmark announced that US$ 200 million for the next fiscal year has been allocated towards a new fund for international environment and emergency assistance, targeting an extra one half per cent of GNP by the year 2004. France pledged an additional 400 million francs of bilateral financing to projects related to desertification and other areas under the scope of GEF, in addition to the 1 billion francs devoted annually to desertification control. Germany pledged an additional 5 million deutsche marks in technical cooperation committed to desertification for 1994, to start national action plans as soon as possible. Canada announced a plan to direct US$ 100 million over the next five years from existing development cooperation aid to fight desertification, especially in West Africa. Japan announced an increase from US$ 7.0 billion to US$ 7.7 billion in ODA for environmental projects in developing countries for the period 1992-1996. The United States of America will allocate US$ 500 million for current or planned projects to support urgent action for Africa.

84. The Convention also suggests that countries consider establishing national desertification funds, possibly involving the participation of non-governmental organizations to channel funds rapidly and efficiently to the local level.

B. Technology transfer

85. Since UNCED, there has been increased activity in the transfer and sharing of knowledge on cultivation technologies for fragile dryland soils, such as saline soils, and in the identification and introduction of adapted crop species. For example, UNEP, in collaboration with Australia and with participation from all regions, organized an international workshop in November 1992 on halophytes for the reclamation of saline wastelands.

86. The positive policies and developments in the Middle East have resulted in improved opportunities for the transfer of knowledge across formerly closed political divides in that region. The International Programme for Arid Land Crops (IPALAC) was initiated in 1994, which includes the collection, development and introduction of plant species adapted to dryland desert conditions and the transfer of suitable cultivation techniques. The Government of Israel, with the support of UNESCO and others (FAO, UNEP, UNDP and research institutions from Australia, Bahrain, Cameroon, Chile and China), organized a workshop in November 1994 to launch the programme, which will network research nodes in all continents.

87. There is also an active transfer of data handling technologies to developing countries and among United Nations organizations, for example, of the FAO interactive database systems and delivery applications; of geographical information systems (GIS) technology by FAO, WHO and others; and of WMO drought monitoring and early warning techniques.

88. Alternative energy utilization technologies (solar, wind, bio-gas) are being transferred. There is also more activity in the sharing of water desalinization knowledge in the Middle East, with plans for a regional desalinization research centre in Oman.

IV. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPERIENCES IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

A. Intergovernmental processes

89. The preparations for UNCED and the intergovernmental process of negotiating the Convention which has dominated the desertification agenda since the Rio Conference, have resulted in the increasing willingness of countries to join together in tackling regional natural resource management problems, as the Aral Sea and Middle East initiatives show. There has also been a growth in activities through and support of subregional organizations, such as on the transfer of experiences and technologies and on information systems. The World Bank reports increases in activities for intergovernmental projects, particularly for projects funded by GEF, for example the West African Pilot Community-based Conservation and Wildlife Utilization.

B. Organizations of the United Nations system

90. The major preoccupation within relevant organizations of the United Nations system since UNCED has been the negotiation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. Considerable resources, both human and financial, have been devoted to the process over the past two years, in relation to support to the ad hoc secretariat, to Governments in affected countries, to the definition of the technical, scientific and political issues involved and to the formulation of the texts of the Convention and the regional annexes.

91. The negotiation process itself has resulted in many changes in political and even technical perceptions. New relationships and understandings have developed, leading to a self-questioning of the role, responsibilities and programmes of United Nations organizations.

92. In accordance with the general requirement of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 for "serious and continuous reviews of their policies, programmes, budgets and activities", the organizations most concerned with desertification control have undertaken in-depth reviews of their environment-related activities, their stance on environment and sustainable development issues, their institutional arrangements and future programmes in the light of the objectives set out in chapter 38, its special requirements and the responsibilities established by the Convention.

93. Most organizations report a reorientation of their programmes related to desertification control to focus more closely on the requirements of Agenda 21 and to prepare for Convention implementation. Strategies have been prepared and responsibilities assigned to coordinate the implementation of new action plans. The latter are generally based on the six programme areas set out in chapter 12 related to desertification control, or respond to the particular specialized mandates of the organization concerned, bearing in mind the desertification dimension.

94. In response to the demand for a strengthened knowledge base and further development of information and monitoring systems, including on the socio-economic aspects of desertification, many organizations report an increase in activity in this area. Initiatives include increased research in the understanding of processes involved in climate, its variability, drought occurrence and desertification; a new interactive database for use by local people and decision makers; a new experimental network data project on river flow regimes in parts of Africa; and the development of national environmental information systems.

95. Core activities in desertification control remain soil and water conservation, land rehabilitation, afforestation and reforestation and specialized activities such as sand dune fixation. The emphasis in these projects, however, has changed over time and in response to past experience. Various project evaluations and studies have pointed to the failure of the sector approach and targeted technical solutions. It has become apparent that an integrated approach is necessary to account for the socio-economic aspects of the desertification problem and to fulfil the need for a participatory approach to project design and implementation. The top-down direction was shown not to work, since inputs from the beneficiaries were not included and because the adaptation of projects to changing local conditions requires the knowledge of the local participants themselves. Hence, the bottom-up approach has been adopted and projects are being amended or designed accordingly. In addition, the requirement for sustainability in development and livelihood has become a key component in project activities.

96. Various approaches have been attempted in the search for alternative livelihood systems in the drylands, for example a small grants programme linking poverty alleviation and environmental priorities through promoting livelihood alternatives. Another programme that previously focused on small-scale, on-farm efforts in the use and conservation of water and soil resources and on traditional dryland crops has recently expanded to also cover off-farm common property resources and the development of viable alternative livelihood systems in marginal rural areas. Again, these responses reflect the increased human focus on project design.

97. The UNCED process highlighted the need to integrate anti-desertification plans into national environmental planning. This is reflected in the increased attention to national strategic planning processes and capacities reported and, more importantly, in cooperative attempts to coordinate the various existing initiatives in this area, through a series of multi-organization harmonization meetings. New activities are increasingly being undertaken in consultation and cooperation with the other organizations active in this area. Capacity-building

at all levels has been a focus of activities in accordance with the bottom-up approach to development.

98. Several organizations report activities in drought preparedness and drought relief. These include investigative projects in climate research and early warning systems, activities to identify and prepare drought mitigation projects and map vulnerability and to improve disaster and drought mitigation skills through training; and an initiative to build capacity in drought preparedness and mitigation, involving local people in the design and implementation of their own drought response strategies.

99. The last programme area, the cross-cutting issue of encouraging and promoting popular participation and environmental education, is a basic component of most activities in the other areas, as described above.

100. With regard to cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system, the Secretary-General's call for streamlining and for a more efficient organization overall has led to reorganization and a close examination of the relationships and cooperation among the various component bodies. The demonstrated benefits of cooperation have become more apparent, especially in the light of the tendency of organizations to opt for a concentration on specific areas. Thus, UNDP has chosen to formulate activities around capacity-building for sustainable human development, FAO places its major emphasis on food security, the World Bank is now focusing on poverty, while UNEP is concentrating increasingly on environmental assessment, dissemination of information and emerging environmental issues.

101. The changing spirit towards cooperation and coordination is reflected in the increase in joint activities among two or more organizations, and with external organizations such as non-governmental organizations. These cover such fields as strategic planning, assessment methodologies, scientific aspects of desertification and environmental information systems, as well as operational field activities.

102. As indicated elsewhere, there is growing cooperation with non-governmental organizations, building on the role assigned to them in Agenda 21 in relation to activities at the country level, and with centres of excellence and academic institutions, in recognition of the cross-cutting nature of desertification control, involving the social, cultural, economic and physical management of a territory.

103. In this context, a further factor encouraging and ensuring coordination involves the linkages between the different chapters of Agenda 21. Many activities in response to one of the chapters are equally valid in relation to one or more of the other chapters. As a result, organizations not primarily dealing with desertification find themselves called upon for their specific skills, particularly in the socio-economic aspects of programme activities.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

A. Conclusions

1. Major result of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

104. The global importance of the desertification problem, which has its origin, causes and solutions at a very local level, is now becoming more widely accepted. There is also increasing recognition that desertification and drought are closely interlinked with other global concerns such as biodiversity, food security, population growth, climate change, international waters, forestry, resource consumption patterns, trade, economics and, in particular, social and cultural issues. The linkage between chapter 12 and the other chapters of Agenda 21 is clear.

105. The adoption of the Convention was a major recommendation of Agenda 21. Moreover, negotiators explicitly framed the provisions of the Convention to take account of the objectives and activities of chapter 12. Article 2 explicitly recognizes this consistency between the two documents. It is clear, therefore, that the Convention provides the primary framework for carrying out the provisions of chapter 12. As indicated elsewhere in the present report, there are also close linkages between the Convention and a number of chapters of Agenda 21. The provisions of the Convention should, therefore, be taken fully into account in implementing Agenda 21 as a whole.

106. The negotiation of the Convention within the specified time is a major, tangible result of UNCED. It is evidence of strengthened political will; but this still has to be translated into commitment in the national and subnational operational context.

107. There are important issues that still have to be addressed more effectively. These deal mainly with (a) inadequacies and deficiencies in the knowledge base and information systems; (b) enabling environments for effective action; (c) public participation; (d) development mechanisms; (e) institutions and policies; (f) finances; and (g) division of labour and coordination of efforts at the national and international levels.

108. Although considerable emphasis has been given to some of these issues, much more attention is needed for the social and economic aspects of desertification, including resource users' rights, their fair participation in economic development, alternative economic opportunities, access to applicable technologies and credit and sustainable resource use.

2. Popular participation

109. The principle of allowing more effective participation of local people in the planning and development of their natural resources is being more willingly accepted in many affected countries. Many organizations, especially non-governmental organizations, have stepped up their participatory approaches with the inclusion of marginalized and disadvantaged groups, especially women,

in the dryland development process. The importance of preserving local peoples' knowledge of dryland management and survival strategies should be recognized; their full involvement in the sustainable development of these drylands - their homelands - needs to be ensured.

3. Economics and trade

110. The linkage between environment and economics is a subject of increasing international discussion. Dryland degradation, as an issue in its own right, is part of these discussions. The recent agreement at the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations should stimulate trade, but it is possible that the sustainable management of dryland environments will be more difficult to attain. While liberalization of trade would tend to give impetus to agricultural production in dryland areas, there is a concomitant danger of further land degradation owing to the expansion of agriculture in fragile areas in the absence of suitable complementary land management policies. Dryland farmers face severe competition from subsidized farmers in the North. It is necessary that the next round of trade negotiations recognize the needs of dryland populations (one fifth of the world's population) in seeking fairer market conditions.

4. Strategic frameworks

111. By the mid-1980s, the Governing Council of UNEP was already urging the inclusion of desertification control plans as integral parts of overall national socio-economic development plans. Agenda 21 and the Convention both reiterate the need for the integration of desertification control strategies and action programmes into the national policy and institutional framework. There is a need for further consolidation of various sectoral and donor-driven strategic framework plans within the overall national planning and budgeting frameworks.

5. Global awareness-raising

112. Despite the increased understanding of desertification and drought issues, there is a continuing need to raise public awareness of the issues. The global public needs to understand the importance of desertification and the value of the world's drylands and their population.

6. Partnerships

113. United Nations organizations have already taken steps to align their desertification activities in accordance with Agenda 21. Further agreements on the system-wide division of labour and proposals on further partnership arrangements between agencies (and corresponding targeted work plans) are needed. In the implementation of the Convention, these organizations could further define their roles, comparative advantages, cooperative mechanisms, level of intervention and corresponding resource allocations.

7. Increasing the knowledge base

114. Fundamental to improving understanding of the significance of desertification and drought is the need for a substantial improvement in the level of scientific knowledge of the problem. Now that there is an agreed definition of desertification, it is possible to assemble a consolidated database of available knowledge covering all spectra of the issue. A coordinated global effort is necessary to consolidate the data available in a compatible form, and to obtain a greatly improved base of information, so that a much more detailed and precise understanding of the desertification issue can be obtained. This would involve concerted activity at the national level in affected countries and the recognition by Governments of its importance. It is a cross-sectoral effort, involving physical, social, humanitarian and economic factors.

8. Further actions

115. The following additional actions are among those envisaged as necessary steps towards achieving sustainable dryland development:

(a) Recognizing that combating desertification needs an integrated and holistic, multisectoral approach;

(b) Elaborating and clarifying the linkages between desertification and drought and other conventions, especially the Conventions on Climate Change and on Biodiversity, as well as linkages with other issues, such as:

(i) Household food and energy security;

(ii) Integrated management, conservation and use of forests according to the Forest Principles of UNCED;

(iii) Land-use policies, legislation, land tenure;

(iv) Socio-economic and development policies;

(v) Development and adoption of unzealous population policies;

(vi) Education and empowerment of women and youth;

(vii) Trade policies, local and external markets;

(viii) Development of economic tools, real costs and benefits, natural resource accounting, incentives;

(c) Improving the coordination of efforts by the various partners at the national and international levels;

(d) Increasing public awareness through greatly increased dissemination of reliable information;

(e) Providing support to countries, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations for institution building (data improvement and networking, development of policies, strategies, legislation and human resources), and for empowering and ensuring the involvement of people, especially the marginalized groups;

(f) Providing of adequate funding for the interim secretariat of the Convention;

(g) Significantly involving non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention and in national-level coordinating committees;

(h) Calling for new and additional funds under GEF in support of the Convention and its objectives;

(i) Establishing a well-functioning and fully supported global mechanism for financing the implementation of the Convention.

B. Recommendations

116. Because of the seriousness of desertification and drought in the drylands and of the special needs of Africa, it is recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Encourage States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention;

(b) Urge all developed countries in the interim period to provide support to affected countries in Africa as called for in the resolution on urgent action for Africa;

(c) Urge countries and intergovernmental organizations fully to support the work of the interim secretariat in preparing for the first session of the Conference of the Parties, in view of the importance of the swift implementation of the Convention;

(d) Consider the desertification issue in the light of the objectives set out in article 2 of the Convention;

(e) Approach the subject of desertification as a multisectoral issue;

(f) Urge Governments to recognize the mutually supportive relationship between combating desertification and sustainable development.

117. Since the definitions of desertification and land degradation contained in article 1 of the Convention make it clear that combating desertification is a cross-cutting issue, it is recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Indicate strongly the belief that consideration of the issues contained in chapters 10 to 18 of Agenda 21 can only be productive if the desertification dimension is taken fully into account;

(b) Emphasize that the Convention contains provisions for carrying out many of the measures proposed in the related chapters of Agenda 21, in particular chapter 18 on freshwater resources.

118. In view of the need for strengthening national capacities in relation to combating desertification and drought and of the benefits of cooperation and coordination, it is recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development urge affected countries and their subregional/regional organizations:

(a) To take effective action to set up institutional and policy frameworks for developing, managing and implementing national strategies and action programmes, incorporating the full participation of the public, especially those most affected;

(b) To encourage Governments to improve coordination among departments at the national level in order to implement measures for combating desertification more effectively and for the sustainable use of natural resources, given the cross-cutting nature of these issues;

(c) To establish, as a matter of highest priority, the coordinating arrangements and to create partnerships with donors and national stakeholders, as called for under the Convention.

119. In order to capitalize on the benefits of cooperation and coordination and for the sake of a good division of labour, it is recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development urge developed countries to agree on coherent policies and adequate resource allocations for fulfilling their commitments towards the implementation of the Convention.

120. Since combating desertification and drought requires a participative, multisectoral integrated approach, the Commission may wish to recommend that United Nations organizations and Governments take steps to improve cooperation and coordination, both internally and externally with other organizations and Governments, by establishing more efficient and practical coordination and harmonization mechanisms.

121. It is imperative to mobilize financial resources to assist countries to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification and chapter 12 of Agenda 21. Since resources are more likely to be available for well-conceived activities that meet both poverty alleviation and environmental objectives and because of the desirability of utilizing existing financial mechanisms for this purpose, the Commission may wish to recommend that United Nations organizations with a comparative advantage in this sphere take steps to facilitate the financing of programmes and projects in dry sub-humid, semi-arid and arid areas.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) statistics on the population economically dependent on agriculture.